

What is claimed is:

1. A network system, comprising:  
a central directory server; and  
a plurality of provisioning servers, each provisioning server receiving specific configuration information from the central directory server for provisioning the provisioning server, and receiving global information for provisioning user access devices.
2. The network system of claim 1, and further comprising:  
a database structure on the directory server with global and unique sections, the global section containing provisioning information for external user access devices and the unique section containing configuration information for each of the plurality of provisioning servers.
3. The network system of claim 2, wherein the unique section comprises a plurality of private sections, each private section corresponding to the provisioning server to which it belongs.
4. The network system of claim 2, wherein the global section is universally available to each of the plurality of provisioning servers.
5. A machine readable medium comprising machine readable instructions for causing a computer to perform a method, the method comprising:  
storing configuration information for a plurality of provisioning servers in a central database;  
storing configuration information for a plurality of user access devices in the central database; and  
allowing access per provisioning server to its own configuration information and also to all the configuration information for the plurality of user access devices.

6. The machine readable medium of claim 5, and further comprising tagging the configuration information for each of the plurality of provisioning servers with a unique identifier.

7. The machine readable medium of claim 5, wherein allowing access per provisioning server comprises:

assigning each provisioning server a unique identifier; and

creating a plurality of private sections, each of the private sections containing provisioning information for one of the plurality of provisioning servers.

8. A method of provisioning multiple provisioning servers connected to a central directory server, comprising:

storing configuration information for a plurality of provisioning servers in a central database;

storing configuration information for a plurality of user access devices in the central database;

tagging the configuration information for the plurality of provisioning servers with a unique identifier for each provisioning server; and

allowing access per provisioning server to its own configuration information and also to all the configuration information for the plurality of user access devices.

9. The method of claim 8, and further comprising tagging the configuration information for each of the plurality of provisioning servers with a unique identifier.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein allowing access per provisioning server comprises:

assigning each provisioning server a unique identifier; and

creating a plurality of private sections, each of the private sections containing provisioning information for one of the plurality of provisioning servers.

11. A method of operating a provisioning system having a central directory server and a plurality of distributed provisioning servers, the method comprising:
- receiving a request for configuration at the central directory server for one of the provisioning servers;
  - identifying the particular provisioning server requesting configuration; and
  - configuring the particular provisioning server with configuration information unique to the particular provisioning server.
12. The method of claim 11, and further comprising:
- receiving a request from an external user access device at a configured provisioning server;
  - accessing globally available configuration information on the central directory server by the configured provisioning server; and
  - provisioning the user access device with the globally available configuration information.
13. A central directory server for multiple provisioning servers, comprising:
- a computer having a processor, a memory, a mass storage element, and a network connection; and
  - a database stored in the mass storage element, the database comprising:
    - a globally accessible portion containing provisioning information for external user access devices; and
    - a restricted access portion containing configuration information for each of the provisioning servers.
14. A distributed provisioning server, comprising:
- a DHCP server;
  - a TFTP server; and
  - a network connection for connecting to a central directory server;

wherein the provisioning server is uniquely identified to the central directory server to obtain configuration information for the provisioning server and for user access devices attempting to connect to the provisioning server.

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